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If the sales are to be considered as an effort to distribute the church lands among buyers likely to make a more effective use of them, and to transfer the lands of the emigrant nobles to the bourgeoisie or the peasantry, they were, M. Marion thinks, successful. As a financial operation they were a disastrous failure.

The financial aspect of the sale M. Marion explains with the most instructive fullness. He remarks that while originally the assignats were created to facilitate the sale of the new public lands, in the end the land sales were pushed forward with reckless haste to absorb the ever-increasing flood of assignats. He adds, the assignat has "dénaturée" the sale, "il l'a irrémédiablement faussée, il l'a transformée en une quasi-donation . . . une opération qui aurait pu et dû procurer à l'État d'immenses ressources; il a spolié la nation de toute la substance de son magnifique patrimoine. Instrument de salut, on le dit: mais il faut ajouter toute de suite, instrument, aussi et surtout, de ruine." To accept as exact this severe judgment it is only necessary to inspect the many tables containing the statistics of successive payments on typical sales. For example, a property, appraised at 101,000 in assignats, which at the time were worth 90,467.50, actually brought in 52,701.35, because the later payments in assignats were not worth more than from a third to a fifth of their face value. In the case of the emigrant lands there was additional loss, because they were estimated in assignats, without allowance for depreciation, although the "maximum" legislation openly acknowledged a depreciation of at least a third, and because even the early payments for these lands were made two years later than the first payments on the church lands. Furthermore, most of the payments were made in 1795, as a consequence of the law of 3 Messidor, when the assignats were fast becoming worthless.

Among M. Marion's conclusions there is one for which his evidence does not seem complete. This is the view that all classes of persons were eager to purchase the lands of the Church. He shows that many ecclesiastics, some of them non-jurors later, were purchasers; in most cases, of the glebe connected with their livings. It is also true that many purchasers became emigrants or perished on the scaffold. But he does not show that the conservatives or reactionaries of 1790 were among the purchasers. A man might be fairly radical and yet perish as a *modéré* or fly from the country in 1793.

H. E. BOURNE.

*Les Projets de Restauration Monarchique et le Général Ducrot Député et Commandant du 8<sup>e</sup> Corps d'Armée. D'après ses Mémoires et sa Correspondance. Par le Vicomte de CHALVET-NASTRAC. (Paris: Alphonse Picard et Fils. 1909. Pp. viii. 381.)*

THE general Ducrot whose political activity is related in this book died in 1882. After having been one of the good officers of Napoleon

III. he came into prominence during the Franco-Prussian War, especially at the battle of Sedan and at the skirmishes around Paris. To the general public, however, his name is known merely by two incidents which were widely exploited to make him ridiculous. The one was a speech addressed to his soldiers after the defeat of La Malmaison in which he made the unfortunate pledge to enter Paris "dead or victorious". Later, in 1876, when he was commander-in-chief of the 8th army corps he had his general manoeuvres opened by a mass celebrated by a bishop on the summit of Mont Beuvray. To complete this extraordinary manifestation the prelate gave to the kneeling army the benediction of Pius IX. At a time of rampant anticlericalism it is easy to imagine the jeers of the press. General Ducrot who had been a loyal soldier of the Empire became, in the unsettled condition following the war, an aggressive advocate of the restoration of legitimate monarchy. His political activity, not merely as deputy of Nièvre but also as commander-in-chief of the 8th army corps, became so marked that the Republican party forced President MacMahon to remove him from active service. In spite of this remarkable record the family of General Ducrot was afraid that the importance of his political role, especially in the attempts at monarchical restoration, had been forgotten by the public and overlooked or ignored by historians. Therefore they handed over to the Vicomte de Chalvet-Nastrac the papers of the general, including his correspondence with his wife and a sort of memoir wherein he relates, in the third person, events in which he took a part. Thus this book originated.

Besides throwing more light on some political interventions of the general, some of which had never been mentioned before, it tells once more the complicated history of the Royalist conspiracy between 1871 and 1878, the rivalry between the Orleanist and the Legitimist factions, the efforts at fusion, the conflicting ambitions of the princes, the noble but absurd obstinacy of the Comte de Chambord in his mad insistence upon the return to the white flag, the final reconciliation between the two branches, at Frohsdorf (August 5, 1873), the clever tactics of Thiers, and the loyalism or hesitations of Marshal MacMahon which finally defeated, as much as did the pretender himself, the plans of restoration.

In the diaries and letters of General Ducrot we find him in the vanguard of the fight, now interviewing the Duke d'Aumale at Biarritz, now travelling to Antwerp to advise the Comte de Chambord. He did not hesitate while general of the Republic to send an emissary to the pretender at Frohsdorf. At a moment's notice, he answered the pretender's call to a meeting at Versailles where the Comte de Chambord had come incognito, in November, 1873. In all these interviews, some of which were highly dramatic, the general shows himself an ardent Legitimist, a rabid hater of all the so-called "radicals" who were then trying to establish the Republic on a solid foundation, a soldier abso-

lutely indifferent to anything except the "salvation of France" as he understands it, *i. e.*, by the return to the combined tyranny of throne and altar. As a curious illustration of the type of men that were then trying to make France retrace her steps beyond the revolution of 1789, this book will serve a useful purpose.

While it more than fulfills the desires of the family by giving General Ducrot all the credit he deserves for his loyalty to his king, while it shows, also, the absolute confidence that the exile of Frohsdorf had in the general, it illustrates likewise the gulf separating soldiers like Ducrot, pretenders like the Comte de Chambord, from the ideas and ideals of the country which they expected to guide. It certainly more than justifies the measure by which the government dismissed from office an officer who considered it his highest duty to plot against the Republic.

O. G.

*The Hague Peace Conferences of 1899 and 1907: a Series of Lectures delivered before the Johns Hopkins University in the Year 1908.* By JAMES BROWN SCOTT, Technical Delegate of the United States to the Second Peace Conference at the Hague. In two volumes. Volume I. *Conferences*. Volume II. *Documents*. (Baltimore: The Johns Hopkins Press. 1909. Pp. xiv, 887; vii, 548.)

INASMUCH as one of the best histories of the First Peace Conference at the Hague was written by a leading member of the American delegation, Mr. Frederick W. Holls, it was eminently fitting that Professor James Brown Scott, our technical delegate and one of the most active members of the American delegation, should describe the work of the Second Hague Conference.

Official connection with a conference may possibly have drawbacks as well as advantages for its historian. He might exhibit bias, see the proceedings at too close a range, or hesitate to criticize the work of his superiors and associates. But there is strong internal evidence that Mr. Scott has viewed his subject in the proper perspective, and that he has worked at his task with a discriminating enthusiasm and in a scientific spirit. He writes throughout from the standpoint of the advocate of peace who favors arbitration rather than disarmament.

As stated in the preface, the first volume is "based upon a series of lectures delivered before the Johns Hopkins University in the year 1908. The lectures have been carefully revised and much enlarged. The substance, however, remains unaltered and the conversational style has been preserved."

The first three chapters give a general survey of the Genesis of the International Conference and the results of the two Hague Conferences. Then follow two interesting chapters on the Composition of the Conferences and the Nature, Origin, and Practice of International